

usual foraging method, and for this reason I wish to comment on Abdulali's note, and offer additional thoughts on the probable identity of the Indian sapsucker.

It seems certain that the Indian sapsucker is *Hypopicus hyperythrus*. Abdulali rightly noted that in the SYNOPSIS (Ripley 1982) I have used the name 'Rufous-bellied Sapsucker' in reference to this species, one of the pied woodpeckers, ranging from the Himalaya, north-eastern India and south-east Asia, to southern China, Korea and Manchuria. Two sources support the notion that *Hypopicus* is the Indian sapsucker that produced the systematic drill holes so prominent in Abdulali's photograph. The first is Osmaston (1916), who noted this phenomenon in Kumaon, and who actually observed *Hypopicus* visit the holes, in order to drink the sap exudate.

Additionally, Zusi and Marshall (1970) implicate *Hypopicus* both by the field observations of Marshall, and by the anatomical examination of the tongue by Zusi. Marshall, like Osmaston, observed *Hypopicus*, and no other woodpecker, visiting the rows of bark holes that he found on trees in Thailand. Zusi's examination of a *Hypopicus* tongue shows that its tip is adorned with fine, soft, brush-like edges, very similar to those found on the tongue of the North American sapsucker, and quite unlike the coarser and stiffer tongue structure found in other related species of woodpeckers never known to feed on sap ex-

udate.

One of the reasons that Abdulali doubted that *Hypopicus* was the creator of the bark-holes that he photographed in Srinagar was that he did not believe the species occurred there. It is now known that *Hypopicus* does, indeed, range westward through Kashmir to northern Pakistan (Ripley 1982).

What is most remarkable is that, to date, there have been no direct observations of *Hypopicus hyperythrus* drilling the rows of bark holes, so that the knowledge of this species' remarkable drilling habit remains based only on indirect evidence. It would be valuable for naturalists living in the Himalayan hill stations to make an effort to provide direct observations on the drilling and sap-sucking activities of *Hypopicus hyperythrus*. In particular, it would be interesting to know the relative importance of sap in the diet of this species, and the nutritional constituents of the sap of the particular tree species most commonly used. It has been stated that sap-sucking by this form occurs only in the spring (Zusi and Marshall 1970).

One might ask whether the sap is used preferentially for provisioning nestlings. A diet high in carbohydrates might be the answer.

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15. LONG DISTANCE MOVEMENT OF A MALABAR WHISTLING THRUSH *MYIOPHONUS HORSFIELDII* (VIGORS) IN THE WESTERN GHATS

During the BNHS bird ringing camp at Mahabaleswar, Satara district, Maharashtra (17°55'N, 73°40'E, 1371 m.a.s.l.) we had mist-netted 59 birds of the Malabar whistling thrush *Myiophonus horsfieldii* between 12 April and 18 June 1972. One individual (Ring No. B-31672) ringed on 13 June was recorded by U.K. Koragappa, the headman of Chembu village, Post Sampaje, North Coorg, Karnataka (12°00'N, 75°50'E), having been killed by a predatory bird near his house on 18 January 1976. He managed to recover the ring from the dead bird.

The distance travelled by the thrush was approximately 650 km south of the ringing place. It was recovered after 3 years, 7 months and 9 days.

There is considerable lack of information on migration and movement of birds along the Western Ghats complex. The above ring recovery of the Thrush is of interest and worthy of record. This recovery suggests that the species is not exclusively resident as has been previously recorded (Ali, S. and Ripley, S.D. 1987, HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN 9:78) but probably has a wider distribution during the monsoon when it breeds. It is restricted to perennial water sources in evergreen areas during the dry months.

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